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Testimony in **Support** of
HB 425 – Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms

Dear Chairman Clippinger and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 425 and to urge a favorable report. This bill will close the gaps of ambiguity found within the manufacturing and use of “ghost guns” throughout the State of Maryland.

There has been a steady increase in the proliferation of ghost guns in Prince George's County over the last two years. Our current laws require traditional firearms produced by licensed gun manufacturers to have a serial number. These serial numbers allow firearms to be traced from manufacturer to purchaser to possessor. However, ghost guns do not have serial numbers and can therefore not be traced. Untraceable firearms are particularly attractive to individuals who are prohibited by law and cannot legally possess a handgun. These individuals include people who are too young, people who have committed disqualifying offenses, and people who have been convicted of prior crimes of violence – all groups who should not be in possession of handguns.

HB425 would create a legal requirement that, subject to certain exceptions, an individual may not purchase, sell, or transfer certain parts used to produce ghost guns without a serial number. This bill will greatly assist law enforcement in preventing prohibited persons from purchasing and possessing untraceable handguns.

Ghosts guns are a serious risk to the public safety of our communities. I urge a favorable report on this bill.